

LETTERS OF TAFT ARE MADE PUBLIC

They Show Action He Took in Case of Major Beecher B. Ray.

WOMAN'S NAME SHIELDED

Says Political Influence Had Nothing to Do With His Recommendations.

Washington, February 12.—The alleged political influence of Major Beecher B. Ray, the army paymaster, who is charged with having obtained changes of station and immunity from various troubles because of the influence of President Taft, was again a subject of investigation today before the House Committee on Expenditures in the War Department. Paymaster-General Whipple testified that Major Ray has established a record in the service for frequent changes of station. In thirteen years he had been successively stationed at eighteen points, whereas the average assignment of a paymaster at any station is between three and four years.

Chairman Helm asked General Whipple if any of the assignments had been made at the direction of President Taft.

"Yes," he answered. "In 1905 the President asked that Major Ray be sent to Atlanta, and in November, 1911, that he be sent to New York."

"At whose request was it that Major Ray was sent to Chicago from Atlanta, rather than to New York?"

"I got orders from the chief of staff's office to make the change to Chicago. The chief of staff said that Mrs. Ray was ill and a surgical operation was to be performed in Chicago. General Carter said this change was made at the request of the White House."

Taft's Letter.

One of the letters of President Taft to Paymaster-General Whipple put in evidence in the case and made public today, follows:

(Personal and confidential.)

"Dear General Whipple:

"I have read the letter of — regarding Paymaster Ray, which you have shown me, because in times past I had had a personal interest in the welfare of Major Ray. I have no relations with Major Ray that prevent my directing you to take the same disciplinary action in respect to him as in the case of any of your subordinates."

"It seems to me that it would be wise to send General Garlington or a trusted assistant to inspect Ray's accounts, and those of his clerk as well, as the charges — makes, and if the facts turn out to be as stated, to separate — from Ray at once."

"While Ray's conduct, if — charges are true, could subject him to the severest condemnation, there seems, from — language and telegram, to be such a condemnation by him and his wife that it would be well to avoid the demoralizing scandal for the army involved in the court-martial proceedings, which would place a stigma on — and Mrs. — which they could never recover from. Ray could be told that his superiors knew his faults, and have provided against it, and in the interest of his victims and the army, it was deemed best not to present it to a board, on the condition that he avoid such conduct in the future."

"These suggestions are upon the assumption that the charges are true, and that General Garlington knows them to be so. I don't favor court-martial proceedings in such cases where there is condemnation, in order to prevent scandal. The army suffers, the public suffers, and only the prudent readers of such trials receive any advantage. The discipline involved does not outweigh in its benefit for the army the injuries to the prestige of the army and the demoralization it causes."

"You can show this letter to General Garlington and General Oliver, but I would prefer that it do not go on your official files."

"Major Ray did me some service of a political character years ago, at the instance of my brother, and he is disposed to assume much too much on that score. I wish him treated as any other officer in the service, and I would make the same suggestion as to any army officer in a similar case."

"Sincerely yours,

(Signed) "WILLIAM H. TAFT."

A year later President Taft sent this letter to General Whipple:

"The White House, Washington, July 14, 1911.

"My Dear General Whipple:

"I write this that you may show it to Mr. Ray and Mr. Sweet, of the Military Commission. You have come to me at your own instance with the statement that you have learned that Mr. Sweet is indignant because he thinks he has been misquoted in regard to an omission of two or three pages of the War Department report called for by H. R. 265."

Record is Omitted.

"The part of the record omitted refers to a charge against Major Beecher B. Ray, of illicit relations with a certain married woman, in respect to which I was consulted by you at the time the charge was made, and also at the time the resolution was passed. I saw Mr. Sweet in New Haven and told him that I deprecated its being brought out, as I thought it would tend to blast the reputation of a married woman, who, as I understood, was living happily with her husband and was probably what the committee was searching for. I asked him to see Mr. Covington, who had prompted the resolution and find if that part of the record might be omitted."

"I understood from the Secretary of War, and also from General Wood, that Mr. Sweet had consented to an omission of that part of the record, unless, upon its being brought to the attention of the committee, a full record was desired, and that in accordance with that understanding the particular pages of the record were omitted from the return until further notice was received from Mr. Sweet."

"I don't desire any misunderstanding and I wish that the whole record shall go to the committee. If the committee desires it and to know what the circumstances are, I will ask you therefore to take the pages of the record to Mr. Hay, the chairman of the Military Commission, and to Mr. Sweet, show them the pages and such correspondence, confidential or otherwise, referred to in the record."

"You have also a letter from me written July last, when you consulted me about this matter which I intended to be confidential and not to be put on files, but I have no objection to your showing that letter to Mr. Hay and to Mr. — and if they desire to bring that out, you may make it a part of the record. You will please explain to them the circumstances that according to your understanding with me and the fact that Mr. and Mrs. — were living together happily, and the appeals which he has made to you to withdraw his original letter, in which he made the charge, and then leave to these gentlemen the decision as to what course he shall take."

"Very sincerely,

(Signed) "WILLIAM H. TAFT."

Messrs. Sweet and Covington, referred to in the President's letter, are Representatives in Congress from Michigan and Maryland respectively.

General Whipple testified Saturday that President Taft's letters had "suppressed" charges against Major Ray.

Adjusting Grievances.

Norfolk, Va., February 12.—The general board of adjustment of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers of the Seaboard Air Line Railway is in session here for consideration and adjustment of grievance. It was stated that the wage scale was not under consideration.

On February 15th

Richmond Will Hear for the First Time

The World-Famous Soprano

TETRAZZINI

The Corley Company invites all lovers of music to visit their warehouses, 213 East Broad Street, to hear the Tetrassini Records played on the

VICTROLA

Familiarize yourself with some of the wonderful selections which will be sung in Richmond by this great artist.

Tetrassini Sings Only for the Victor.

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STIMSON TALKS OF CANAL TOLLS

Says United States Can Make Repayment to American Ships.

Washington, February 12.—"I have no doubts as a question of law," said Secretary of War Stimson before the House Interstate Commerce Committee today, "that under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty the United States can pay from its treasury to any American ship any compensation or repayment of tolls that it sees fit. Whether we can discriminate in favor of American ships directly is another question. It all involves a question of national policy. I am not discussing that question now. My opinion is, however, that the first method would be the safer."

In this manner Secretary Stimson dismissed the question of American payment in Panama Canal tolls before the committee. He was questioned by members of the committee, but declined to be drawn into a discussion of an academic or legal nature.

"Wouldn't the repayment to American ships be a violation of the spirit of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and would not the words 'directly or indirectly' in that treaty be considered 'superfluous'?" asked Representative Sims.

"I do not care to go into that discussion here," said Mr. Stimson.

Two Fundamental Requirements.

The Secretary laid down two fundamental requirements for the progress of the canal. Colonel Goethals, chief engineer of the canal, who was a witness, agreed with him. The first legislative necessity, Mr. Stimson said, was a law organizing the administrative work of the canal, so that the construction force can be organized into an operating force. The next question is that of tolls, he said, and he declared that the United States owed it to the commerce of the world to inform it as to what to expect in the matter of tolls.

He deprecated the establishment of a minimum toll by law, premised on the operating expense and cost of the canal. He said the primal purpose of the canal was the development of commerce, and that such questions as reimbursement for costs of construction could be deferred. He thought that if the future shows that the income from tolls can be applied to the cost, that this should be done, but first of all he said he thought the \$300,000,000 paid for the canal should be disregarded in the broad view of helping the commerce of the world.

Disagrees With Mr. Knowland.

Mr. Stimson disagreed with Representative Knowland and others over the necessity of a provision in the bill to prevent the stalling of the canal by a transportation rates by reason of a combination of shipping interests using the canal. He said he would leave these matters with the President rather than Congress. The Interstate Commerce Commission, with broadened powers to cover coastwise traffic, he said, could meet the situation.

He said he preferred to postpone the cure for evil until the evil actually exist, although he recognized the situation in California and the fear that the prohibition of freight rate relief by combinations on the canal.

Mr. Stimson said he would keep legislation for the encouragement of American shipping apart from Panama Canal legislation. He also told the committee that the government owned steamships to the canal, and in this connection advised that the corporate entity of the Panama Railway Company be maintained. He said that the pressure brought to bear by the country's lower rates of freight would be tremendous. He preferred that the President have final disposition of such questions.

"Would not political pressure operate against the President as well as against Congress?" asked Representative Stevens.

"Not as much," answered Mr. Stimson, and the committee smiled.

Birthday of House Celebrated.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Winchester, Va., February 12.—The birthday of the late Charles Broadway

Consumption

Any one interested in the cure of Consumption should get one of the booklets

of recoveries by the use of Eckman's Alternative.

Coughs, Stomach Colds and Pneumonia may be the beginning of serious troubles—Eckman's Alternative is the effective remedy. Read Mr. Kanaly's statement:

Saratoga, N. Y.

"Gentlemen: For five or six years I was troubled with cough and expectoration. I also had a high fever. My case was declared incurable by the best physicians."

Given cod liver oil, Creosote and other medicines, all without benefit.

At Christmas time, 1906, I was not expected to live. Called Dr. R. H. McCarty, he advised the use of Eckman's Alternative, which I took with excellent results and was entirely cured."

"During the past year I have gained 15 lbs. I go out in all weathers and have had each of the above-mentioned give these facts to encourage others to use Eckman's Alternative."

Eckman's Alternative is effective in Bronchitis, Asthma, Hay Fever, Throat and Lung Troubles, and in upbuilding the system. Does not contain potent opiates or habit-forming drugs. For sale by Owens & Minor Drug Company and other leading druggists. Ask for booklet of cures, cases and write to Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa. for additional evidence.

Made Jury Commissioner.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Lynchburg, Va., February 12.—Because of the change in the Federal laws on January 1, by which all of the clerks' offices of the Federal court are grouped under one clerk in a district, Judge McDowell has entered an order here naming Major A. D. Percy jury commissioner for the entire district, and the appointee has qualified under the appointment.

W. V. Martin Made Clerk.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Lynchburg, Va., February 12.—Judge H. C. McDowell, of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, today appointed William V. Martin deputy clerk of that court. He is a native of this county and has qualified under the appointment.

"Fusion" Democrats Appointed.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Norfolk, Va., February 12.—Judge Joseph T. Lawless today appointed George Lindsay commissioner of revenue for the entire district, and the appointee has qualified under the appointment.

League Dates Chosen.

Albany, Ga., February 12.—Opening and closing dates for the double season in the South Atlantic League's 1912

Buying Winter Comfort



For the benefit of architects, owners and tenants we maintain 27 well-appointed showrooms in cities mentioned below. Many hundreds of dealers in other cities make similar interesting displays of

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rooms, big radiators for storm vestibules; with high legs for cleaning thereunder; with ventilation attachments so air of rooms may be changed 3 or 4 times per hour—and other features which would instruct and delight you—and pay you well to know.

IDEAL Boilers are made in sizes to fit 3-room cottages to 100-room buildings or larger. They are made in types for burning hard or soft coal, peat coal, cheapest screenings, lignite, coke, wood, gas, oil, etc. They are made on the unit or sectional plan, so will pass through cellar door of any building already erected, and can be made larger or smaller if building is later altered in size. Will not rust or wear out as long as the building stands. IDEAL Boilers are absolutely safe—a child can run one—many children do. Three or four gallons of water added twice a season will keep the boiler filled. IDEAL Boilers take up all the heat from the fuel, and deliver it just where the fire will not need rekindling in the whole heating season—will run 8 to 16 hours or longer without recoaling—depending of course upon the severity of the weather.

IDEAL Boilers and AMERICAN Radiators reduce the cost of living—they are an investment, not an expense. If you cannot call, then please phone or write and we will send you our big book of heating facts—puts you under no obligation to buy. Prices are now most favorable.

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It would pay you big in information to call and permit eager, courteous experts to show you how AMERICAN Radiators may be placed in the rooms for the greatest convenience and to give utmost results; how the surfaces and forms of AMERICAN Radiators may be decorated in colors to match wall-coverings, hangings, furniture, etc. AMERICAN Radiators are made in

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